

O'Connell, Sue

From: shycpat0530@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 7:36 AM
To: Shyla Patera; O'Connell, Sue
Cc: Tom Osborn
Subject: CFHHS Comments non HJ24related

Members of the Children, Families, Health and Human Services Committee:

I, Shyla Patera, am writing these comments to you regarding the human services budget, service cuts, and Electronic Visit Verification. I am not writing this email in my citizen advocate capacity for North Central Independent Living Services Inc. ,but rather as a Montanan who utilizes Medicaid and community first choice services through Montana Medicaid for workers with disabilities. I am currently using services and have since age 18. Personal Assistance Services have allowed me to remain independent go to college and find a job. I have watched as our Home and Community Based Services programs have transformed in various ways – some good some not so great. I appreciate the growth that Montana's PAS/CFC program has made in order to serve many Montanans who desire to stay and live in Montana communities. I remember being a young woman and not having the choices we do today to assist Montanans with disabilities of all types to stay in our communities. I really hope that these current cuts as well as some harmful federal and state actions do not become our new normal. While current cuts and budgetary issues have become a part of everyday reality and discussion for my work at North Central Living Services, Inc. I am concerned that we no as a state are only looking at issues incrementally and not globally. Meanwhile ,people may have health crises that need care. How do we want our disability system to move beyond 2021 in healthcare, Medicaid, Medicare, housing, transportation, and more?

I also have concerns about Electronic Visit Verification. I know that every Medicaid dollar should be accounted for in the best way, but as a user of services I have concerns. Is our state ready to implement this technology when we have work force shortages and live in rural state where we struggle to get and receive internet connectivity. and broadband. As part of my job , I hear concerns about provider readiness every day. We only had two applicants response to the RFP and we have no administrative roles and we have not awarded a contract .I'm concerned that attendants will have to out reach to an EVV network and or provider multiple times during a home visit. I'd rather my attendant be focused on my care. I love self directed Personal Assistance because I determine when and how my tasks are done. I'm concerned for those who may have to give more information then needed for certain tasks. I also have privacy concerns for myself and consumers I serve. I want to live in my community as long as possible without barriers that may impede this process and my life. I am not an offender and shouldn't need to be tracked in order to claim hours that I need to go to work ,go to bed ,and bathe among other things. We asked for extensions for Real ID because we had concerns about policies. Why is the State is not asking CMS for the same under EVV?

Thank you.

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Sent from my iPhone